

REMARKS

Applicant has included a complete listing of the current claims pending in this application. Claims 25-29 are pending in the application.

This amendment contains no new matter. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Drawings - Formal Drawings

Included with this submission is a set of Replacement Sheets for all of the Drawing Sheets originally submitted – Sheets 1 through 6. The Replacement Sheets address the issues raised in the drawing review: the drawings are provided on clean paper, lines should now be uniformly thick, the numbers and reference characters are now of proper height and uniformly thick, the figure legends are clean.

Correction of a Typographical Error in Claim 27

Applicant has amended claim 27 by changing the second occurrence of the term "extending portions" to "extending portion" to remove an antecedent basis problem. This change is not a substantive change made in light of the prior art.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The examiner maintains the rejection of claims 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29, as being anticipated by the Applicant's own earlier-granted patent: US Patent 6,273,316 (Losada '316).

Applicant notes that claims 25 and 28 are independent claims, with claims 26 and 27 depending from claim 25, and claim 29 depends from claim 28.

First, with respect to claim 25, the examiner maintains that the track (316) of Losada '316 is "shaped to conform with [the] curved plate" of claim 25 of the present invention. See page 2 of the Office Action of September 20, 2005.

While Applicant respectfully maintains that the angled tracks shown in Losada '316 are not "shaped to conform with the curved shape of the plate" as called for in claim 25 as originally presented, Applicant has amended claim 25 to

make the difference between the present invention described in claim 25 and the prior art more clear.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification at paragraph 44 and at paragraph 8, wherein application serial number 10/043,669 is incorporated by reference. Application serial number 10/043,669 at paragraph 35 describes the "raised portion" of the plate.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 25 be removed, and the rejections of claim 26 and 27 also be removed as they incorporate the limitations of claim 25.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 26, the examiner maintains that the plate of Losada '316 has a groove as described in claim 26.

In light of the amendment to claim 25, wherein Applicant specifically calls for the curved plate to have a "raised portion", such that the "groove" of claim 26 must be considered a different element, Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 26.

With respect to claim 27, the examiner maintains that the plate of Losada '316 has an extending portion as described in claim 27.

In light of the amendment to claim 25, wherein Applicant specifically calls for the curved plate to have an "attachment leg", such that the "extending portion" of claim 27 must be considered a different element, Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 27.

With respect to claim 28, the examiner maintains that Losada '316 teaches a plate with a groove, and the track is adapted to receive the plate in the groove

As noted by Applicant in the previous office action response, Applicant would just like to point out that claim 28 as originally filed and as amended does not use the descriptive language "curved plate" which appears in claim 25.

Second, Applicant would like to note that claim 28 as originally filed and as amended actually calls for the track to be shaped so as "to contact at least one side of the plate only in the groove". Applicant believes this is an important limitation of claim 28, and the examiner must address this limitation to properly reject claim 28, which the examiner still has not done.

Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 28 to more specifically describe the relationship between fastener assembly and the track. Applicant has more specifically describe the location of the groove on the raised portion of the plate, and specifically called for an attachment leg to be attached to the plate. Applicant has also described the contact between the track and the plate as occurring at the restricted plate contact area.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification at paragraph 44 and at paragraph 8, wherein application serial number 10/043,669 is incorporated by reference. Application serial number 10/043,669 at paragraph 35 describes the "raised portion" of the plate. Support for the amendment is also found at paragraph 47.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 28 be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 29, claim 29 incorporates all of the limitations of claim 28 and is therefore allowable for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 28.

Claim 29 also calls for the plate to have a "pair of grooves" and for the track to be shaped "to contact at least one side of the plate only at the grooves". Again, Applicant believes this is an important limitation of claim 29, and the examiner must address this limitation to properly reject claim 29. Applicant has also amended claim 29 in line with claim 28 to describe the contact between the plate and the track at the restricted plate contact areas.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 29 be removed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.


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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Check No. 12389 for \$1,810
Return Receipt Post Card
Request for Continued Examination (1 page)
Drawing Replacement Sheets (6 pages)
Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages)
Modified PTO/SB/8A (5 pages)
20 References